

REMARKS

The Specification is objected to for not including certain section headings. On page 2, we have inserted "OBJECT OF THE INVENTION" and "BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" as section headings, and on page 7 we have modified a section heading.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been rewritten to avoid claim-type phraseology, and has also been placed on a separate sheet at the end hereof.

Applicant has checked the Specification for minor errors, and has made some amendments thereto.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as fully met by Stark US Patent 5,568,400. Stark shows a method for processing spectral data to remove undesired variations in the data and interfering information present in the data. The data are provided, for example, by optical or chromatographical measurements, see column 1, line 27 - 45, and column 5, lines 26 - 33. In order to perform additive and multiplicative corrections, a data normalizer 300, a processor 400, and a data analyzer 500 are used. The data normalizer 300 comprises a coefficient estimator 320 in order to generate coefficients used for the data corrections, see column 12, lines 28-60. The coefficient estimator provides in one embodiment a principal components regression device for generating the correction coefficients, see column 16, lines 23-47. A Taylor series linearization can be used by

employing an alternative process as described in column 16, line 48 to column 17, line 16. The iterative process uses a stop criterion for determining an end of the process, see column 17, lines 15 and 16. The Examiner asserts that the process described in column 16, line 48 to column 17, line 16 of Stark anticipates claim 1 wherein a process end is detected by using a process indicator quantity which is provided by a main component transformation of information of the process acquired repeatedly. However, there are substantial differences between applicant's claim 1 and the method described in Stark.

First, the information used in Stark is not necessarily information of a process. Stark merely refers to obtain an analyte spectra representing a measurement response, see column 8, lines 25 - 62. However, the analyte spectra do not necessarily have to be a spectra of a process. The spectra can consist of different species which have been measured at independent locations.

In addition to the foregoing differences, claim 1 of the present application is directed to determine an end of a specific process by acquiring information of this process and performing a main component transformation of the acquired information. Thus, claim 1 defines that the process end which is to be detected is an end of the same process from which the information is acquired. Contrary thereto, the stop criterion for determining an end as described in Stark, column 17, lines 15-16, is only determining whether to end the internal process of the coefficient estimator wherein a principal component regression is performed. But the principal component analysis in Stark is only performed on the spectral data obtained from optical or chromatographical measurements. Therefore

Stark neither discloses nor suggests the inventive feature of detecting an end of a process by acquiring information of this process and performing a main component transformation of the acquired information in order to obtain an indicator for deciding whether the process has ended or not. Claim 1 has been amended by replacing the term “a process end” with the term “an end of the process” in order to clarify that this process is the same as defined in the step of acquiring the data. Claim 9 claims the same subject matter as an apparatus. It is clear that the end to be detected is related to the process from which the information is acquired, which is completely different from what is taught in Stark which only shows an end of an internal process of the coefficient estimator, and has no relation to the process from which the data is acquired.

Clearly, therefore, claims 1 and 9, and the claims dependent therefrom, are not fully met by the cited references within the meaning of 35 USC 102(b), nor are claims 1 - 19 obvious from the Stark reference within the meaning of 35 USC 103.

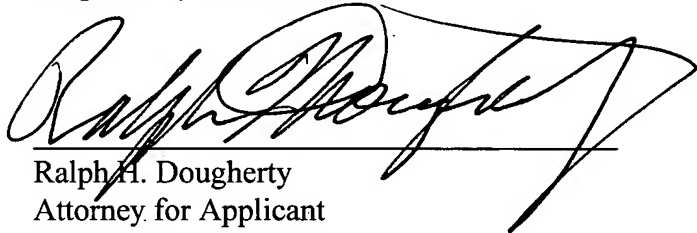
The remaining references which were cited but not applied have been thoroughly reviewed, but clearly are no more pertinent to the claims than the references cited in the rejections.

Since the amendment to the claims does not add more claims than previously paid for, no additional claim fee is required.

An additional Invention Disclosure Statement is enclosed herewith on a reference which has just come Applicant's attention.

In view of the foregoing amendment and these remarks, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested on behalf of Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph H. Dougherty", written over a horizontal line.

Ralph H. Dougherty
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,851
DOUGHERTY CLEMENTS & HOFER
Suite 300
1901 Roxborough Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211
Telephone: 704/366-6643

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